

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

mining the Internet to form a database having a hierarchical schema;

receiving text from a user as the exclusive form of user input, wherein the text is descriptive of information sought;

deriving by a processor a micro-context comprising a coherent group of words corresponding to the meaning for the text by examining a user's activities on the user's computer;

locating the information that matches the micro-context in the database a database; and presenting the information to a user.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the database comprises a corpus indexed by macro-context.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of locating information that matches the micro-context in a database comprises searching through indices in the database corresponding to the macro-contexts and returning the information linked to indices where the macro-contexts correlate to the micro-context.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of presenting the information to a user comprises presenting the information in a format selected by a user, the format being independent of the ~~hierarchical~~ a hierarchical schema of the database, for arranging the information.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of gathering additional information relevant to the text from the Internet.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of tracking a user's navigation through the Internet to develop micro-contexts relevant to a user.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of automatically updating the information periodically after the step of presenting the information to a user.

29-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising:

mining to gather and organize information from the Internet to form a database having a hierarchal schema;

acquiring a textual query from a user;

deriving by a processor a micro-context ~~comprising a coherent group of words~~ corresponding to the meaning for the textual query by examining a user's activities on the user's computer;

operating independently from the hierarchal schema to locate a subset of the information in the database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context; and

presenting the subset to a user.

42. (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~42~~ 41, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's computer comprises tracking a user's navigation through the Internet.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's computer further comprises reviewing prior Internet searches conducted by the user.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's computer further comprises reviewing the results produced by prior Internet searches conducted by the user.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form the coherent group.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query comprises tracking a user's navigation through the Internet to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query comprises reviewing prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

49. (previously amended) The method of claim 41, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query comprises reviewing the results produced by prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form the coherent group.

51. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising:

gathering and organizing information from the Internet to form a database having a schema;

acquiring a textual query from a user;

deriving ~~by a processor~~ a micro-context comprising a coherent group of words corresponding to the meaning for the query by examining a user's activities on the user's computer to gather information regarding contexts important to the user;

operating independently from the schema to locate a subset of the information in the database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context;

acquiring from the user a hierarchy of arrangement for the subset of the information; and
presenting to the user the subset of information according to the hierarchy of arrangement.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form at least a portion of the coherent group.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query further comprises reviewing prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user and reviewing the results produced by prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.